

**Question for written answer P-006635/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Tax evasion: relationship between Juncker and Amazon

In July, *Mediapart* published an article on the relationship between Jean-Claude Juncker and Amazon when the former was Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

According to that article, the American weekly news magazine *Newsweek* investigated the company's tax practices. According to documents held by the US tax authorities, Mr Juncker met Amazon executives on a number of occasions, including Bob Comfort, who devised Amazon's European tax structure. Mr Comfort said that at one of those meetings Mr Juncker assured him that he would help if Amazon encountered any difficulties in its operations to set up in Luxembourg.

The multinational has more or less avoided paying any tax in the United States for 20 years.

In Europe, Amazon does not pay tax either, other than the taxes it has negotiated with the Luxembourg authorities. In 2014, EU competition authorities launched an investigation into this tax evasion. Can you tell us what stage that investigation is at?

What sanctions will be imposed on the political decision-makers and the senior executives of the firm implicated in this case?

Despite all the new rules that have been brought in, the scandals continue to mount. Should the European tax system not be properly harmonised?